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*Almanacs* annually, now a full quarter of a century, my brother authors in the same way, for what reason I know not, have ever been very sparing in their applauses; and no other author has taken the least notice of me: so that did not my writings produce me some solid Pudding, the great deficiency of Praise would have quite discouraged me.

I concluded at length, that the people were the best judges of my merit; for they buy my works : and besides, in my rambles, where I am not personally known, I have frequently heard one or other of my Adages repeated, with " as *POOR RICHARD* says! " at the end of it. This gave me some satisfaction, as it shewed, not only that my Instructions were regarded, but discovered likewise some respect for my Authority. And I own, that to encourage the practice of remembering and repeating those wise Sentences: I have sometimes *quoted myself* with great gravity\*

Judge, then, how much I must have been gratified by an incident I am going to relate to you !

I stopped my horse lately, where a great number of people were collected at a Vendue [*sale*] of Merchant's goods. The hour of sale not being come, they were conversing on the badness of the Times: and one of the company called to a clean old man, with white locks, " Pray, Father ABRAHAM ! what do you think of the Times? Won't these heavy taxes quite ruin the country ? How shall we be ever able to pay them ? What would you advise us to ?"

Father ABRAHAM stood up, and replied, " If you would have my advice; I will give it you, in short; for *a word to the wise is enough*, and *many words won't fill a bushel*^ as *POOR RICHARD* says."

They all joined, desiring him to speak his mind; and gathering round him, he proceeded as follows :

"Friends" says he, "and neighbours! The taxes are indeed very heavy; and if those laid on by the Government were the only ones we had to pay, we might the more easily discharge them : but we have many others, and much more grievous to some of us. We are taxed twice as much by our IDLENESS, three times as much by our PRIDE, and four times as much by our FOLLY : and from these taxes, the Commissioners cannot ease, or deliver us by allowing an abatement. However let us hearken to good advice, and something